

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 393

Introduced by Assembly Member Quirk-Silva

February 9, 2017

An act to add Section 66025.1 to the Education Code, relating to public postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 393, as introduced, Quirk-Silva. Public postsecondary education: mandatory systemwide fees and tuition.

Existing law establishes the California State University, under the administration of the Trustees of the California State University, the California Community Colleges, under the administration of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and the University of California, under the administration of the Regents of the University of California, as the 3 segments of public postsecondary education in this state. Existing law, known as the Donahoe Higher Education Act, among other things, sets forth the missions and functions of these 3 segments.

This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to the costs of public postsecondary education. The bill would require that the amounts of tuition and mandatory systemwide fees that are charged to students of the California State University, and the amount of the enrollment fee charged to students of the California Community Colleges, not be increased from the amounts that were charged as of December 31, 2016, until the completion of the 2019–20 academic year. The bill would also urge the regents to adopt policies that are consistent with this provision.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:
3 (a) The California Master Plan for Higher Education, drafted
4 in 1960, states that public higher education “shall be tuition free
5 to all residents.”
6 (b) In recent years, tuition and fees have fluctuated with the
7 state’s budget. Increases in college tuition have been outstripping
8 the cost of living for decades.
9 (c) When adjusted for inflation, state funding per California
10 State University (CSU) student is near a 30-year low. In 1985,
11 state spending per student was \$11,607; today, when adjusted to
12 1985 dollars, spending per CSU student is \$6,888. In other words,
13 CSU students get just 59 cents for every dollar that the state
14 invested in them in 1985.
15 (d) At the same time, student debt is increasing. The total
16 outstanding student loan debt in the United States is
17 \$1,200,000,000,000, the second-highest level of consumer debt,
18 behind only mortgages. Most of this is in loans held by the federal
19 government.
20 (e) About 40,000,000 Americans hold student loans, and about
21 70 percent of bachelor’s degree recipients graduate with debt.
22 (f) One in four student loan borrowers are either in delinquency
23 or default on their student loans, according to the Consumer
24 Financial Protection Bureau.
25 (g) In 2015, more than one-half of the CSU’s nearly 475,000
26 students received Pell Grants. The percentage of students receiving
27 them has almost doubled since 1993, the earliest date for which
28 data is available.
29 (h) A recent study commissioned by the office of the CSU
30 Chancellor found that one in 10 CSU students is homeless and one
31 in five does not always have enough food.
32 (i) In 1985, CSU students had to work 199 hours at minimum
33 wage to pay tuition and fees for an academic year at the CSU; in
34 2015, students had to work 682 hours at a minimum wage job to

cover those costs. According to CSU systemwide data, three out of four CSU students today work more than 20 hours per week.

(j) In 1985, tuition and fees at the CSU were only \$666 per year. Since that time, those costs have grown 923 percent. If tuition had kept pace with inflation, students would be paying \$1,519 in tuition and fees; instead, they are paying 4.5 times that amount.

(k) California is home to an estimated 214,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students and to one in three of our nation's DREAMers (students within the scope of the proposed federal Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act). Of those attending school, 70 percent also work. Eighty-three percent of DACA students in California are seeking an undergraduate degree, and 17 percent of DACA students are seeking advanced degrees.

(l) Of the top 20 most diverse colleges in the western region of the United States, 10 are CSU campuses. Eighteen of the 23 CSU campuses are currently recognized by the United States Department of Education as Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), colleges and universities with a Latino student enrollment of at least 25 percent.

(m) In California, the CSU provides more than one-half of all undergraduate degrees earned by the state's Latino, African American, and Native American students. More than one-half (56 percent) of CSU students identify as students of color. Roughly 35 percent of CSU undergraduates are the first in their families to attend college. In short, the CSU educates the most ethnically, economically, and academically diverse student body in the nation.

SEC. 2. Section 66025.1 is added to the Education Code, to read:

66025.1. (a) This section shall be known, and may be cited, as the Student Protection Act.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the amounts of tuition and mandatory systemwide fees that are charged to students of the California State University, and the amount of the enrollment fee charged to students of the California Community Colleges pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 76300, shall not be increased from the amounts that were charged as of December 31, 2016, until the completion of the 2019–20 academic year.

- 1 (c) The Regents of the University of California are urged to
- 2 adopt policies that are consistent with the provisions of this section.

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